Effects of Chemical Pesticides

855. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report released recently by the U.S. National Research Council titled "Neem-a-tree to solve the World's problem";

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to develop bio-pesticides based on the local flora and fauna;

(c) whether Government have conducted any survey as to the deleterious effects on the excessive use of chemical pesticides on food crops; and

(d) if so, what steps Government propose to take to minimise the effects of chemical pesticides?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Various Departments under the Government viz. ICAR, CSIR, Department of Biotechnology, some State Agricultural Universities and some R&D establishments of Private Sector are engaged in the development of bio-pesticides based on the local flora and fauna. As a result thereof neem based pesticides have become commercially available. Whereas, Pilot Scale technologies have been developed to introduce biocides like *Bacillus* spp.

(c) Many surveys have been conducted by the Institutes under ICAR and State Agricultural Universities to determine load of pesticides on food crops. These surveys have revealed presence of some pesticide residues.

(d) To ensure that pesticides do not pose deleterious effects due to their excessive use on food crops following steps are taken by the Government:—

1. Concept of IPM is being popularised for neem based and judicious application of pesticides to avoid excessive use of chemical pesticides.

2. Government have banned the use of nine chemical pesticides including DDT.

3. Neem based pesticides and biocides have been registered for use.

Recommendations of world Sustainable Agriculture Association

856. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the recommendations made by the "World Sustainable Agriculture Association" against the use of chemical fertilisers and pesticides;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) whether Government propose to take steps to propagate nature-farming involving judicious use of chemical and natural fertilisers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The Government is not aware of the recommendations made by the "World Sustainable Agriculture Association".

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) The balanced and complementary use of chemical fertilizers along with bio fertilizers and other natural fertilizers is regularly advocated so that an integrated nutrient supply system for the soil can be built up.

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857. श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह : क्या कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) दिल्ली में मदर डेयरी के कितने